



Geneva, 26 March 2026

## **Joint statement**

# **Switzerland must act to ensure the release of Nicolás Maduro**

The kidnapping of Venezuela's constitutional president, Nicolás Maduro, and his wife, Cilia Flores, on 3 January 2026, sets a dangerous precedent for the international order and for the sovereignty of states.

The statement issued by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAE) on 7 January 2026, declaring that “the attack of 3 January 2026 against Venezuela constitutes a violation of international law, in particular the principles of the prohibition of the use of force and respect for territorial integrity”, is necessary but wholly insufficient.

Indeed, Switzerland, as the depositary of numerous international conventions and the host country of the world's most important human rights bodies, must now take active steps to ensure compliance with the United Nations Charter and other relevant international regulations.

We call on the Swiss Government to take the necessary measures to defend and promote the restoration of the principles of international law, to firmly protect the sovereignty of states, and to offer its good offices for the immediate release of the constitutional President, Nicolás Maduro, and his wife, Cilia Flores, a sitting member of the National Assembly.

Furthermore, we are particularly concerned about the Trump administration's obstruction of the rights of the defence, notably the right to choose one's own lawyer, which violates the fundamental principles of Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, recognised by the United States.

We reiterate that the charges of 'drug trafficking' are false pretexts exploited by the Trump administration to justify military intervention aimed, in reality, at illegally seizing Venezuela's natural resources. In this regard, Switzerland cannot validly engage in mutual legal assistance proceedings in relation to a trial that is manifestly unfair and arbitrary.

**Swiss-Cuba Association ASC-Geneva  
International Association for Human Rights and Social Development AIDHDES  
Antifascist International – Swiss section**